

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 161836
ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
INFO COMMANDANT US COAST GUARD WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EAIR, BA

SUBJECT: PLACEMENT OF AN OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM
MONITOR IN BAHRAIN

1. THE U.S. COAST GUARD COORDINATES THE OPERATION OF A NAVIGATION SYSTEM FOR VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT CALLED THE OMEGA SYSTEM. BASICALLY THIS SYSTEM CONSISTS OF EIGHT TRANSMITTING STATIONS AROUND THE WORLD WHICH TRANSMIT A SIGNAL ON KNOWN FREQUENCIES, IN CLOSELY PHASED SEQUENCES. VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT EQUIPPED WITH SPECIAL EQUIPMENT CAN RECEIVE THIS SIGNAL AND USE IT TO LOCATE THEIR POSITION.

2. WHILE THE OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM IS REASONABLY ACCURATE NOW, ITS ACCURACY CAN BE IMPROVED BASED ON STUDY OF THE EXACT NATURE OF THE SIGNAL, AS RECEIVED, AT SEVERAL
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PAGE 02 STATE 161836

KEY POINTS AROUND THE WORLD. TWO YEARS OF THIS RAW DATA IS MOST USEFUL IN MAKING THE CORRECTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF THE OMEGA SYSTEM.

3. IN ORDER TO COLLECT THIS DATA TWO ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTS AND AN ANTENNA MUST BE PLACED AT A FACILITY WITHIN THE COUNTRY SELECTED. THE COAST GUARD WOULD LIKE TO PLACE

AN OMEGA SYSTEM MONITOR IN BAHRAIN. THE COAST GUARD HAS ALREADY TAKEN UP PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITH MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS IN MANAMA. THIS ORGANIZATION'S MANAMA OFFICES WOULD BE A QUITE ACCEPTABLE SITE FOR THE OMEGA MONITOR SYSTEM AND MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION SEEMS RECEPTIVE.

4. THE KEY ELEMENT IN PLACEMENT OF THE OMEGA MONITOR SYSTEM IS A TWO-YEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COAST GUARD AND THE ORGANIZATION RECEIVING THE SYSTEM. THIS AGREEMENT SETS OUT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE SYSTEM'S MAINTENANCE AND USE. THE COAST GUARD, WHICH HAS SOUGHT AND OBTAINED BLANKET CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY, PROPOSES TO NEGOTIATE SUCH AN AGREEMENT DIRECTLY WITH MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS, AND WE AGREE WITH THIS APPROACH. HOWEVER, WE FEEL IT NECESSARY TO OFFICIALLY SEEK THE GOB'S AGREEMENT TO THIS PROCEDURE, AND TO KEEP THE GOB INFORMED AS THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED.

5. AS A RESULT, EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK A CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY TO: A. CONTACT MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS FOR COORDINATION PURPOSES; B. SEEK AN EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN TO DESCRIBE IN BROAD OUTLINE THE OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEMS, RELYING ON PARAGRAPHS ONE AND TWO FOR GUIDANCE AND MATERIAL WE HAVE POUCHED TO EMBASSY. EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 161836

THE GOB'S CONCURRENCE IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS AND THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO PLACE OMEGA NAVIGATION MONITOR SYSTEM IN BAHRAIN. IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB OFFICIALS, YOU MIGHT USEFULLY POINT OUT THAT GOB WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE FREE ACCESS TO ANY OMEGA DATA COLLECTED IN BAHRAIN AS WELL AS DATA COLLECTED IN ANY OTHER PART OF THE WORLD.

6. IF GOB AGREES THAT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN, EMBASSY SHOULD COORDINATE WITH MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM TO KEEP THE GOB INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS. ON OUR PART, WE HAVE POUCHED FULL INFORMATION ON THE OMEGA SYSTEM TO EMBASSY, AND HAVE INCLUDED AS WELL AN EXAMPLE OF PROPOSED DRAFT AGREEMENT. WE WILL KEEP EMBASSY FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS FROM WASHINGTON PERSPECTIVE AS NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED.
VANCE

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